CONSOLIDATION.

A Plea for Bringing Together All the Farmers' Orga..izations in the Country.

The Grange or Patrons of Husbandry, the Farmers' Alliance, with its northern and southern organizations; the Farmers' Mutual Benefit association, the Patrons of Industry, not to mention several lesser societies, are each and all striving to advance the farmers' condition, socially, educationally and financially. The Farmers' league supplements these orders by carrying the farmers' wants into actual polirics—a field not usually touched upon by the other organizations, several notable instances excepted.

The first class of organizations work for essentially the same object, but in different lines, under different forms, rules and leaders. They, therefore, compete with each other to some extent. The rivalry is usually a friendly one, and when this is true no harm results. Still, jealousies and ambitions exist to such an extent, and the fundamental principles or pervading spirit of our various farmers' societies are so diverse, that the attempt has thus far failed to unify all these forces into one grand order. Nor is it at all likely that the devoted Patron of Husbandry will give up the grange to unite with the Alliance, or vice versa. And, if all were to amalgamate into one body only, the union could last but a short time, owing to the diversities just referred to. Such absorption into one order would also destroy the incentive to work which the existing rivalry promotes. But there is a simple and practical way in which unity can be brought about among all these influences in so far as their work is identical.

Let us imitate the example of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the simplest but most powerful levers for promoting scientific work. Form the American Association of Agricultural Organizations. Let its active board be composed of executive officers of the various national orders among farmers, including the American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations. This representative body could devise ways for general co-operation on all matters upon which the various orders could agree. Measures upon which it was impossible to harmonize the respective bodies would be left to them. Thus the individuality of the various orders would not be interfered with; they would all work together on subjects of common interest, each continuing its work in special lines in its own way.

The great simplicity, inexpensiveness and strength of this form of union must commend it to all. It would be comparatively easy for the American Association of Agricultural Organizations to prepare a plan of educational work, compared to whose usefulness the now famous Chautauqua system would fade into insignificance. Such a plan would embody home courses of reading, helps for public schools, a vast development of agricultural college and farmers' institute extension, with grand educational convocations annually in each state of all the farmers and mechanics and their families interested in the new education. Likewise under a well digested plan, our farmers' organizations could gradually unite in financial co-operation on a basis that each and all might profitably adopt. No such degree of harmony could be expected in politics, but the effect would be to stimulate farmers wherever located into more active work as citizens, and this is the essential point—to get our producers to feel their responsibilities to their community, and assert their rights and do their public duties through the channels, parties or systems that commend themselves to their judgment.

A common fraternity would be promoted, sectionalism obliterated, and national patriotism stimulated by the influence of such union among the farmers' organizations. Eventually all the orders would meet in the same city at one time. Each body would hold its separate meetings for the transaction of its official, special and routine work, uniting on certain days in one grand convention to consider in common those matters upon which mutual agreement had been reached after full discussion by the respective organizations. Thus the simile between this plan and that of the American Association for the Advancement of Science would be carried out. Each section or order would preserve its individuality, and continue its special work, but all could unite effectively when union was expedient and possible.—American Agriculturist.

Help from Kansas.

A Topeka correspondent of The St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: Encouraged by the result in Kansas, it is known that the farmers in other states are being appealed to by the Alliance leaders to organize for future elections. One of the Alliance organs in this state says: "Every state in the Union has been looking to Kansas in this campaign. Our victory is of national significance; its influence will be felt to the remotest parts of our land. Already we have calls from other states for some of our experienced Alliance organizers. They desire to get in line for the struggle of 1892. We shall send men to teach our principles in other states, and we shall continue the work of education among our own now organized people. Kansas has led the way and forced the issues of the next national campaign."

It Must Go.

These Pinkerton forces are simply private armies of hirelings, ready to do any bloody work that may be required of them for pay, wherever there is any pretense that it is in defense of the property of great corporations. The shooting of innocent persons, as at Albany during the New York Central strike, and at Fort Worth during the Southwestern strike of 1886, shows one of the evils of this kind of warfare, but the great objection to it is its utter and obvious inconsistency with the state's legitimate functions. No state can afford to tolerate private armies within its borders. Such mercenary troops are as dangerous to the public peace, safety and liberty as were the private armies of Rome in the days of Rienzi.

Pinkertonism must go.—Boston Globe.

The Arrogance of Capital.

Capital has grown so arrogant that it refuses to treat with organized labor; it demands the right to hire in the world's markets; to place the pauper labor of other nations in competition with yours, thus placing this labor in direct opposition with the interests of our own citizens, while our citizens support them, and by their class legislation have made it possible to amass their fortune. Through the evil effects of the legislation, backed by trusts and monopolies and aided by these ill gotten gains, the Pinkertons are hired, innocent men are shot down and starving and unclad families turned into the streets or forced to submit.—Speech of W. H. Thompson in Nebraska.

Rev. M. C. Peters, pastor of Bloomingdale Reformed church, New York city, was recently called upon by a committee from a Brooklyn labor organization with a protest against the preacher's utterances on the labor question. The call was made on Sunday morning, at the conclusion of the services.

No reform, moral or intellectual, ever came from the upper classes of society. Each and all came from the protest of martyr and victim. The emancipation of the working people must be achieved by the working people themselves.—Wendell Phillips.

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Government Railroads.

The most frequent if not the most forcible objection to federal ownership of the railroads is that the vast increase such ownership would make to the patronage of the government would be dangerous to our institutions. "The railroads," say those who favor this view, "should by all means be kept out of politics." True, but no government railroads on earth are so thoroughly in politics as the private railroads in this country.

What phase of American politics is free from railroad influence? It extends and ramifies in every direction. It penetrates the counting room, the editorial sanctum, the court and the legislature, state and national. No department of the government is free from it. It is active from the nomination of the president of a village to the election of the president of the United States. It is not open and above board, but underhand and insidious. Always exercised to acquire political power for private ends, it is constantly at war with the public, persistently demoralizing in its tendencies, and invariably pernicious to the general welfare. It is the monstrous progeny of vast wealth, limitless resources, insatiable greed and an unscrupulous policy.

With the passage of the roads under government control a growing danger to the republic would be removed. The service should be entirely divorced from politics. Efficiency, good conduct and ability should be the tests for promotion, not political influence. Is it possible that the government of this country is so unscrupulous, dishonest and corrupt that it cannot be intrusted with duties satisfactorily performed by the "effete" monarchies of Europe, and must these duties therefore be farmed out to the Goulds, Vanderbilts and other railroad kings and potentates?—Rural New Yorker.

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